

Introducing our new ordinands - pages 10 and 11

the Door



Reporting from Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire www.oxford.anglican.org

September 2012 No. 238

Apply now for a family friendly award

by Sarah Meyrick

A NEW scheme to help churches engage better with children and young people has been launched in the Diocese.

From September parishes will be able to apply for one of two new family friendly church awards: the “welcome” award and the “good news” award. In each case a parish that demonstrates it has met certain criteria will be given a 200mm diameter plaque to display in their church.

The scheme was put together by Yvonne Morris, the diocesan children’s adviser, and Ian Macdonald, the diocesan youth adviser. It was formally launched at the Yellow Braces youth camp in July.

“We want to help churches move away from their children and young people’s work being about educational programmes and move more towards a model of ‘whole church’ discipleship,” said Yvonne. “Through the scheme we’ve come up with a process that enables churches to explore that. We know from other dioceses that churches



Young people at the launch of the awards at Yellow Braces. Photograph: KT Bruce. www.ktbrucephotography.com.

find award schemes like this really encouraging. The one thing we’ve done differently with our awards is to encourage more holistic thinking about ministry with children and young people.”

The scheme has been piloted

and refined over the last year and Yvonne and Ian will be writing to all parishes encouraging them to take part. Once a parish has completed the self-assessment pack, the advisers or one of their scheme champions will visit the parish to validate the award.

“We believe every parish can engage with the ‘welcome’ award, even if they have no children or young people in the congregation at the moment.

“The ‘good news’ award is more aimed at churches that already have a more developed children’s and youth ministry but they want to move on. We’d like them to get young people, children and parents involved in

the evaluation.

“This scheme has been a year in the making. We’ve spent a lot of time assessing similar schemes and we’ve ended up with something we hope will be a great encouragement to parishes,” said Yvonne.

Bishop John said: “I think this is a really good initiative. Anything that encourages churches to think about their welcome to children and young people is to be celebrated. I’m looking forward to seeing these plaques displayed in churches. For more email yvonne.morris@oxford.anglican.org or ian.macdonald@oxford.anglican.org or call 01865 208253.



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Prayer and Reflection

“Follow me.”

The Revd Steve Hellyer on how Jesus called a tax collector to make a good deposit of his soul by joining his band of disciples.

Caravaggio's painting 'The Calling of Matthew' is a striking portrayal of the event recorded in Matthew 9:9. At the far right stands the commanding figure of Jesus, finger raised, pointing. At the far left, tax-collector Matthew sits hunched over a table, looking down, scrabbling away at his coins, his face an image of obsession and addiction. Typically, Caravaggio presents a strong contrast between light and dark in the picture, and a shaft of light is positioned such that when Matthew raises his head (as we sense he surely will) to look into the face of Jesus, he will at that moment be en-lightened, lit up.

But there are other figures looking on, notably the nonchalant, quizzical (cynical?) youth in the centre, who we imagine saying to himself 'Just who does this Jesus think he is?' That question about Jesus' identity proves central to the Gospel traditionally attributed to Matthew (see Matthew 12:23-24).

Tax-collector Matthew stood in a difficult position with regard to his fellow Jews - he was after all a collaborator giving his own people's money over to the oppressing Romans - and the relation of Jesus to Judaism and the Law of Moses is likewise a delicate question in Matthew's Gospel; Jesus is depicted as both the fulfilment of all that Israel at her best was hoping for, and also what she at her worst most needed but was in danger



The Calling of St. Matthew, c.1598-1601 (oil on panel), Caravaggio, Michelangelo Merisi da (1571-1610) / Contarelli Chapel, S. Luigi dei Francesi, Rome, Italy / The Bridgeman Art Library

of rejecting cynically.

Like Matthew's coins, the Gospel is well-ordered, pored over, polished - see the way the writer organises the genealogy of Jesus in his first chapter ('so, there are fourteen generations from Abraham to David, and fourteen generations from David to the exile into Babylon...' Matthew 1:17) In Matthew, Jesus' teaching is brought together in blocks, miracle-stories likewise collected

up in neat piles. All is gathered, tidy: but at its heart is life-shattering gospel-good-news about the ultimate enlightenment; it's a Gospel about the Jesus who calls us to follow him, as he called Matthew, away from our coins or our fishing nets, away from the things that enslave our attention and over which we obsess: it is about Jesus in whose presence people are lit up, Jesus who alone can free us to really live.

And to live, to follow Jesus, we will need teaching. Where Mark in his Gospel might simply write 'Jesus taught the people', Matthew shows us that teaching, practical teaching, about how to live out this new life of discipleship - how to prioritise (Matthew 6:24-34), how to relate (5:38-48), how to discern (7:15-20) how to pray (6:5-15), and - of course! - what to do with our money (6:19-21).

'Jesus said to Matthew, 'Follow me'. And Matthew got up and followed him'.

Just like that. Matthew knew a good bargain when he saw it. This was a deal after his own heart, an investment opportunity too good to miss: 'Matthew, you know deep down that 'you cannot serve God and Mammon' (6:24): so trade in your life of grubby, compromising, scrabbling preoccupation with what exhausts you and does not profit in the end! Store up for yourself treasure in heaven (6:20), make a good deposit of your soul (16:24-26), and Follow Me!'

Here is a prayer, printed on a card I keep on my desk. You might like to pray it, with Caravaggio's picture here before you, for yourself or for someone you know:

*O Dayspring,
Brightness of the Light everlasting
and Sun of righteousness,
Come and enlighten
them that sit in darkness
and the shadow of death
Amen.*

The Revd Steve Hellyer is vicar of St Matthew's Church, Oxford.

September prayer diary (The following is for guidance only, please feel free to adapt to local conditions and, if you wish, produce your own deanery prayer diaries.)

Prayer to the Father through the Son in the power of the Spirit for:

SAT 1 Grove: clergy Paul Eddy. Grove (VC) School.

MON 3 Hanney, Denchworth and East Challow: clergy Robert Teare; LLM Meg Joyce. Hanney (VC), East Challow (VC) Schools.

TUES 4 Ridgeway: The congregation and leadership team. Childrey The Rideway (VC) School.

WED 5 Wantage: clergy John Salter, Michael Berrett, Paul Faint and Keith Kinnaird. Wantage Primary (VC) School.

THURS 6 Wantage Downs: clergy Elizabeth Birch, Jean Page. Hendreds (VA) School.

FRI 7 Blenheim Team: clergy Adrian Daffern, Sister Anne Proudley, Brian Wood, Shaun Henson, Clare Hayns. Bladon (VC), Woodstock (VC), Woodstock Marlborough (VC) Schools.

SAT 8 Eynsham and Cassington: clergy Morey Andrews, Roger Aston, Andrew Athersone. Cassington St Peter's (VA) School.

MON 10 Hanborough and Freeland: clergy David Tyler, Peter Ball, Jackie Gardner, Sister Mary Britt, Phil Cooke. LLMs Clive Berry and Hugh Dalton. Pastoral Assistants John Fox and Peter Langley. Long Hanborough (VC) and Freeland (VC) schools.

TUES 11 Steeple Aston with North Aston and Tackley: clergy Mark Clavier. Steeple Aston Dr Radcliffe (VA), Tackley (VC) schools.

WED 12 Stonesfield with Combe Longa: clergy Roy Turner. Combe (VC) School.

THURS 13 Westcote Barton with Steeple Barton, Duns Tew and Sandford St Martin: clergy Graeme Arthur.

FRI 14 Wootton with Glympton and Kiddington: clergy Stephen Jones; LLM Jenny Wagstaffe. Wootton-by-Woodstock (VA) School.

SAT 15 Flackwell Heath: clergy Christopher Bull, Martin Courtney, Graham Hartnell, Jill Roth. LLM Sue Simpson; Youth/Children's worker Ellie Wartew.

MON 17 Great Marlow with Marlow Bottom, Little Marlow and Bisham Team: clergy Dave Bull, Paul Hinckley, Gabrielle Smith. LLM John Bustin. Bisham (VC), Little Marlow (VA), Marlow Holy Trinity (VA), Marlow Infant (VA) Schools.

TUES 18 Hambleton Valley Group Ministry: clergy John Wigram, Jeremy Mais, Sue Morton. LLMs Susan Brice and Annette Jackson. Frieth (VA) School.

WED 19 Hazlemere: clergy Clive Collier, Mark Meardon. Senior Pastoral worker Derek Hopwood. Hazlemere (VA) School.

THURS 20 Hedsor with Bourne End: clergy Ann Trew, Rosemary Payne. LLM Lyn Gooch.

FRI 21 High Wycombe Team: clergy Hugh Ellis, Simon Dust, Yvonne Murphy, Stephen Whitmore, Paul Willis, Elaine Carr, Marie Jackson, Jackie Lock, Ruth Wooster, James Kennedy. Community Missioner Nicky Skipworth; Church Army Debbie Orriss; LLMs Derek Lancaster, Maureen Lampard, David Tester, Barbara Prior, Janice Allerston, Josie Martin, Allison Smale. Pastoral Assistants Heather Graham and Janice Allerston. High Wycombe (VA) School.

SAT 22 Hughenden: clergy Simon Cronk, Helen Peters. Great Kingshill (VA) School.

MON 24 South Chilterns Group: clergy Robert Jennings. LLM Judy Taylor. Cadmore End (VA) School.

TUES 25 Stokenchurch with Ibstone: clergy Alistair France. Ibstone (VA) School.

WED 26 Terriers: clergy Tony Dickinson.

THURS 27 West Wycombe with Bledlow Ridge, Bradenham and Radnage: clergy Nigel Lacey, Veronica Beaumont, Linda Richardson. LLM Robert Hutton. Radnage (VA) School.

FRI 28 Wooburn: clergy Martin Wallington. Pastoral Assistant Brenda Hadley. Wooburn St Paul's (VA) School.

SAT 29: We pray for students starting university, particularly those who are away from home for the first time.

Sundays

Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable garland, but we an imperishable one. So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air; but I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified. [1 Corinthians 9.24-27]

SUNDAY 2 Wantage Deanery: Area Dean (currently vacant), lay chair Hugh Rees, treasurer Sarah Shackleton. The people, PCCs, churchwardens and volunteers in the deanery.

SUNDAY 9: As the Paralympics draw to a close we pray for all those who have taken part in this summer of sport. We remember the competitors, celebrating success or disappointed in their dreams; and for their families as they return home. We give thanks for the hospitality of our churches over this summer to visitors. We pray for our own determination to 'run the race' before us.

SUNDAY 16 Wycombe Deanery: Area Dean Simon Cronk, lay chair Wendy Goodier, secretary Robert Hurley, treasurer Nigel Peach. The people, PCCs, churchwardens and volunteers in the deanery.

SUNDAY 23 Woodstock Deanery: Area Dean Stephen Jones, lay chair Pauline Richardson, secretary Rosalind Gerring, treasurer Paul Atyeo. The people, PCCs, churchwardens and volunteers in the deanery.

SUNDAY 30 Back to Church Sunday: Today we pray for the churches in our diocese, across the country and around the world inviting people to come 'back to church'. We pray for the visitors, that they will feel warmly welcomed, and for all those leading special services today.

Spirit of Life fair a huge success in Wycombe



AN innovative approach to exploring spirituality proved a huge success at All Saints, High Wycombe. More than 100 people visited the Spirit of Life Fair, which was arranged following similar events elsewhere in the UK. The event was a mind, body, spirit fair drawing on the mystical and spiritual in the Christian tradition.

It aimed to give the community the chance to engage with the spiritual dimension of life, through activities and experiences rooted in ancient patterns but

with a contemporary edge. Visitors were given the chance to walk a Labyrinth, create their own prayer beads, experience body prayer and contribute to a mural.

All this took place as performers danced and chanted, circus skills were demonstrated and African drumming provided a beat. Guided meditations, spiritual therapies and massage treatments were all ways of showing people different ways of caring for both body and soul.

The event has come about

through a partnership between All Saints Church and 'Contemplative Fire', a nationwide community of people exploring contemplative Christian spirituality, which holds monthly gatherings in High Wycombe. Its aim was to enable people of all backgrounds to encounter Christian forms of spirituality, providing visitors with an opportunity to reflect on life and issues that matter to them in ways which feel relevant and meaningful.

Debbie Orriss, a Church Army evangelist based in High

Wycombe was one of the organisers of the event. She said: "We're really pleased with the event. We wanted to give people opportunities to explore Christianity in a variety of ways, and we had visitors from a range of faith backgrounds (and none) who explored various activities, performances and stalls throughout the day. The presence of God was very evident and there were many significant spiritual encounters and conversations".

Photograph: All Saints, High Wycombe.

IN BRIEF

Get the latest Simple Guide

A NEW *Making a Difference in the World: A Simple Guide* is now available.

The latest in the *Simple Guide* series, produced for the Diocese's Living Faith vision, the booklet looks at the spiritual reasons Christians have for making a difference as well as making suggestions for practical things we can do. It comes as the Diocese launches a Month of Sundays, when churches are encouraged to celebrate the amazing things we do in the world. A Month of Sundays resources are available and it is expected they will be used throughout October, but they can be used at any time. See www.amonthofsundays.org.uk for more or call 01865 208224 to order copies of the new *A Simple Guide*.

Congratulations to St Mary's

ST Mary's Church, Princes Risborough has been nominated the top parish in the country for its support to the Children's Society.

St Mary's supports the Church of England's Children's Society through charity donations that have amounted to £12,000, through house boxes, coffee mornings, the Christingle Service and street collections. A certificate was presented to the church over the summer, in appreciation of the hard work the PCC and church members have done over the years.

Teddy bear Games

Norman the teddy bear zoomed down a zip wire from a church tower during the Teddy Bear Olympics at St Mary's, Burghfield this summer.

More than 200 people joined in the event where Norman was used because he belongs to David, an officer in the RAF and the husband of the church warden. Norman goes with David whenever he goes abroad. The day featured an opening ceremony, as well as high jump, long jump, sprint, relay, hurdles, and a beat the goalie event. There was a competition for the best dressed teddy and a ceremony with every teddy and its owner receiving a medal.

The pets are back in church

AFTER a story in *the Door* last year, a service specifically for animals has become an annual event at St Giles Church, Oxford.

All animals and their owners are welcome at 3pm on Sunday, September 30th.

£1.2m pledged to transform historic hall

ONLY eight weeks after planning permission was granted £1.2m has been raised towards a £3m scheme to transform Burford's church hall into a new church and community facility.

The medieval Warwick Hall, near St John The Baptist Church, in Burford will be modernised. A new 200 seater hall will be provided as well as meeting rooms, a café and toilets.

The aim is for the £3m centre to open in 2014 and provide a centre for the whole of the town's community. The strap line for the project states that the hall will be "The heart of the church's ministry and the heart of the community's life."

Vicar, The Revd Richard Coombs, said: "We have

launched the project because the church has grown considerably. Our Sunday Club is bursting out of the existing building with 50 to 60 children plus their leaders. Our current facilities are completely inadequate and there is nowhere for church staff to meet.

"We want better facilities for church groups and events like parenting and marriage courses and opportunities to explore the Christian faith. The community needs better places for celebrations and the council needs somewhere to meet."

The scheme has been in the planning process for two years and a recent giving day has seen parishioners and a local trust pledge to give £1.2m towards the project.

National Church grant helps the disabled

THE benefits church can bring to people with learning disabilities are huge.

Reading based charity Prospects works to help churches become more inclusive and accessible to people with learning disabilities and builds discipleship groups for people with learning disabilities.

To support this work, the Church Commissioners have given £50,000 of development funding to Reading based charity, Prospects, to develop and learn from existing mission work. They will work with three dioceses and develop models of mission to reach people with learning disabilities and difficulties.

Gordon Gill, finance manager of Prospects, said there can be problems with a minority of church goers who are not comfortable with, or do not know how to treat disabled people.

"The evidence we are seeing is a discreet disapproval in congregations and then the family of the person with the disability feels uncomfortable and stops attending church," explained Gordon Gill. Another key issue is the language used in services, which is inaccessible to people with learning disabilities.

"Part of the aim is to work with mission opportunities working in dioceses which are leading to growth and to see if they can expand those models and look at replicating some models in different contexts," explained Gordon.

Gordon gave two examples – one in Margate where a church

has developed with more than 60 people, most of them with drug and alcohol problems. Eighty per cent of them have learning difficulties and are vulnerable as a consequence. In another project, benefit dependent people, most of them vulnerable and with learning disabilities spent a lot of time at home watching television. They were brought into church and it hugely benefitted their lives.

The grant is to work specifically in three areas of the country with high levels of social deprivation. While the Diocese of Oxford will not officially be part of that work because it does not have a high enough number of parishes classed as socially deprived, Gordon will still be working with Bishop John on some projects in Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire.

"We are working in deprived areas looking at how we can disciple those people and their care workers," said Gordon.

In the Wallingford Deanery Prospects has trained up leaders and opened a church in Didcot which, within two months had 40 members and within six months 50 members.

Meeting on Wednesday mornings, it provides discipling for the disabled and their care workers. Gordon added: "If you can create a church of 50 people out of nothing, how can that be replicated elsewhere?"

For more see www.prospects.org.uk.



A piper leads a walking bus of school children from Oxford's Phil and Jim School at the end of the summer term.

How can you follow the spectacle of the 2012 London Olympics?

For many of us the Olympic Games were inspirational and exciting viewing. Each day we were treated to someone new pushing themselves to the limit and achieving great things. It's not new of course and the Olympics Games have moved us many times before.

Oxford's Cathedral at Christ Church

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS
23 & 24 December 2012

The ever-popular services of Nine Lessons and Carols will take place in Christ Church Cathedral at 6pm on Sunday 23 December and 3pm on Monday 24 December 2012.

There is no charge for tickets and they are allocated on a strict 'first come, first served' basis.

Tickets may be obtained by sending a letter to the Cathedral Office **between 15 September and 15 November 2012 only**, specifying the service for which tickets are being requested, the number of tickets required **together with a stamped addressed envelope (A5 size if possible please)**. The maximum number of tickets is 4 per application. All tickets will be sent out in early December.

Those without tickets may wish to come on the day and queue for a short period until any unoccupied seats are released, although we cannot guarantee admission.

Applications should be addressed to The Cathedral Office, Christ Church, St Aldate's, Oxford, OX1 1DP marked '9 Lessons'.

The film, Chariots of Fire, followed the journey of two runners in the 1924 Paris Games. A devout Scottish Christian runs for the glory of God and the son of an immigrant Lithuanian Jew runs to overcome prejudice. Two young track athletes who live for the beautiful purity of running and who prevail in the face of overwhelming odds.

Colin Welland's 1981 Academy Award® winning film was directed by Hugh Hudson. And produced by David Puttnam, Chariots of Fire also won the BAFTA award for Best Film and a further two awards at the Cannes Film Festival. The music by Vangelis is so well known that most of us could hum along with it.

Now a theatre production, based on the movie, is running at the Gielgud Theatre in the West End. The theatre has been transformed by designer Miriam Buether into an immersive stadia experience, evoking the spirit of the 1924 Paris Olympic Games. Costumes are by Michael Howells with lighting by Rick Fisher, choreography by Scott Ambler and sound by Paul Groothuis. The production features the legendary music of Vangelis with additional live music and arrangements by Tony Award-winning composer Jason Carr.

The cast, is led by Jack Lowden as Eric Liddell and James McArdle as Harold Abrahams.

Jack Lowden's previous roles include Cammy in the Laurence Olivier award-winning Black Watch for the National Theatre of Scotland

which was also seen at the Barbican and on tour worldwide. On television his credits include Blue Haven and Being Victor. James McArdle has previously been seen on stage in The Heart of Robin Hood for the Royal Shakespeare Company, Emperor and Galilean for the National Theatre, A Month in The Country for Chichester Festival Theatre, Spur of The Moment for the Royal Court and Macbeth at the Globe Theatre. His television appearances include The Best Possible Taste, Appropriate Adult and Page Eight. McArdle has also appeared in the film Private Peaceful.

Chariots of Fire is produced in the West End by Hugh Hudson, Barbara Broccoli and Michael G Wilson and Michael Rose Limited who present a Hampstead Theatre production based on the Enigma Productions Limited motion picture by arrangement with Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation and Allied Stars S.A. Panama.

All in all Chariots of Fire in the theatrical format offers an opportunity to soak up the atmosphere of the journey taken by Liddell and Abrahams in a way that only live theatre can. A ticket offer in this feature offers a bargain rate for the show offering a great day out for your family or even a church group. It could be the Mothers' Union or

how about inspiring the younger members of the congregation?

Looking ahead to Christmas, now is the time to secure your tickets to the Nine Lessons and Carol Service at Oxford's Christ Church Cathedral. This deservedly popular service offers free tickets but they are strictly on a first come, first served basis. There are only four tickets available on each application so it's worth getting in early with your request to ensure your seat.

See the advert in this feature for more details.

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Through the ages to raise funds for All Saint's Church tower



Above and right, villagers travel back through time.
Pics: Andy Walker

CHILDREN from Bow Brickhill CE Primary School in Buckinghamshire recently participated in a village event raising funds to conserve All Saints Church tower. The Bow Brickhill through the Ages family fun day on Sunday 1st July saw the steep road from the war memorial up to the church closed to the public and converted into a timeline from the present day back to the reign of Henry II in 1185, when the church was first established.

Travelling back in time from the present day, the attractions included vintage vehicles, a World War II soup kitchen and air raid shelter, Queen Victoria, Lord Nelson, a Tudor court, and Parliamentarians from the Sealed Knot. Peasants, plague victims and Robin Hood's merry men roamed the woody pathways near the church tower, which hosted a 1940 Observer Corps post just as it did during the war.

Sponsored by Milton Keynes Audi and Santander Bank, Bow Brickhill through

the Ages was attended by their Graces the Duke and Duchess of Bedford, the Marquis of Tavistock and Lady Alexandra, and by Iain Stewart, MP for Milton Keynes South. The event generated over £4,000 for the All Saints Tower Restoration Appeal (ASTRA), which has nearly achieved its goal of securing the tower for the next 800 years.

The Bow Brickhill school choir performed throughout the day and the schoolchildren were very excited to dress in costumes of monarchs from different periods. The school is very strong on music, having recently received a Sing Up award for its commitment to singing while the school's violin quartet won silver at the Milton Keynes music service strings festival, competing against many larger schools.

IN BRIEF

NEW chair for DAC

THE Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches has a new chair.

Charles Baker will take over from David Jefferson from 1 January 2013. Charles has a background in commercial marketing and communications and has worked for large charities. Before he retired he worked as an independent consultant to charities of all kinds. His clients began to include church communities seeking help with realizing their vision to adapt or re-order their churches.

At the same time he became involved with raising funds for projects in St Mary's, Chalgrove. This led to an involvement with Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, where he has been Chairman since 2008. Bishop John said: "I am delighted that Charles has agreed to take on this important role, for which he is eminently well qualified."

Solar panels

THE Diocese has invested £600,000 installing electricity generating solar panels on 57 properties since January 2011.

The money has been used from capital and aims to make money through the Government's Feed-In Tariff. The Tariff gives people money for every unit of electricity they generate and allows them to sell any energy they don't use back to the national grid. The Diocese will continue to get a return on the investment for 25 years. Solar panels have recently been installed on Diocesan Church House but there are no plans for future installations.

Pilot scheme measures energy use

ENERGY USE in churches and schools is often invisible and difficult to measure. A pilot energy monitoring scheme has been running in the Diocese of Oxford since November 2011 to help churches make energy use visible, and easier to measure and manage.

More than 130 churches and schools have been using the free monitoring tool, sMeasure. Using regular meter readings the tool measures energy use and costs, and also compares it to weather and building analysis to indicate how efficiently the building is being run.

"For the first time we are learning about the actual energy use in our buildings, rather than it being guess work.

"From the figures so far it is estimated that in 2012 at least 11,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide will be produced by churches in the diocese," said Matt Freer, Diocesan Environment Officer.

Matt added, "This data is crucial to build a picture of how different types of

church buildings use energy and identify ways to make them more energy efficient, all of which is vital when parishes want to reduce the carbon footprint of their buildings and cut their energy bills."

Size of buildings, fuel use, fabric, equipment and use patterns are all big determinants of energy use, which mean that there are big variations in energy use across the diocese.

"The scheme hopes to gain a richer understanding of this variation and, for example, identify churches with lower energy use to discover what they are doing right and share good practice.

The national CofE Shrinking the Footprint campaign is developing the scheme in conjunction with the diocese. To find out more and get your church or school free access to the sMeasure tool visit www.oxford.anglican.org/environment or contact Matt using environment@oxford.anglican.org or on 01865 208745.



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In times of need

The loss of a loved one can be an emotional as well as stressful time. There are many professionals who can ease the burden of preparation for a funeral with their expertise and personal service. There can be a lot to arrange in a very short time whether or not its a church service or one at the crematorium. Funeral Directors have the experience, very often through several generations of the same family, to provide a fitting tribute to your lost one.



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Spotlight on Harvest festival

Introducing Food Matters.....

Maranda St John Nicolle, diocesan world development advisor, Matt Freer, diocesan environment advisor and Glyn Evans, diocesan rural officer, will be working together in 2013 to help us think about how food matters in our Christian life.

Glyn says: "At the Harvest festival we thank God for the produce of the earth, recognise human endeavour in the work of the farmer, and reflect on the fragile relationship between ourselves and the earth's resources. We also are reminded that there are people both here and abroad who don't have access to food and so are denied one of the most fundamental parts of being human. These are spiritual matters for Christians and they are matters of justice too."

Food Matters 2013 will be launched at the annual Plough Wednesday training day on Wednesday 16th January in Haddenham. On January 24th at 7.30pm there will be an event held at New Road Baptist Church, Oxford where the speakers will include the Revd Mike Rayner, Public health researcher, Ruth Valerio, theologian and activist, Anne Kelaart, local farmer and Paul Valentin, Christian Aid. Look out for further resources available at Rogation, Lammas and Harvest 2013.

For more details see: www.foodmatters.org.uk



All about Harvest

Where did our annual celebration of all things food related originate from and how is it being used to highlight the issues surrounding current day production and supply of food in the UK and beyond? **Joanna Hollins** reports.

The Festival is derived from the 'Lammas' (Loaf mass) tradition. Bread made from the new wheat crop would be used for communion as part of the celebration. This ended when Henry VIII broke away from the Catholic Church.

In 1843 the Revd Robert Hawker invited people to a special thanksgiving service for the harvest at his church in Morwenstow, Cornwall. The tradition of harvest festivals appeared at this time and was popularised by Victorian hymns like *All things bright and beautiful* (1848) and *We Plough the Fields and Scatter*, which was published in German in 1782 and translated into English in 1861.

However, ancient festivals existed in many historical traditions including paganism in Europe. In Judaism the festival is called Succoth and dates from the Israelites journey to Israel.

Perhaps with the dawn of the industrial revolution people were becoming more aware of reasons to be



Send a Cow have lots of resources for Harvest and the NFU has launched a campaign to get a better deal for Dairy Farmers. Pic: Istock.

thankful for the countryside and crops, which is even more important today especially considering climate change.

Jesus himself lived in an agricultural country, where food production would

have been a primary concern. That would have an interesting link to the situation today and to celebrating what God has given us.

ONLINE

Send a Cow are doing a special harvest fundraiser and have loads of harvest related resources for churches: www.sendacow.org.uk/ Christian Aid are supporting farmers in India over land disputes and their website contains related resources: <http://tinyurl.com/8tenoat> For a Christian response to the difficulties faced by farmers in the UK see <http://www.farmcrisisnetwork.org.uk/>

Farm crisis network latest

THE Farm Crisis Network called for a day of prayer back in July for members of the farming community who have borne the brunt of our terrible weather and often pay a much higher price than the consumers for the production of food. The prayer specifically mentioned dairy farmers affected by supermarkets forcing down the price of milk.

Early in the year while the talk was of drought conditions and hosepipe bans, many crops started to suffer from lack of moisture. Then we experienced unprecedented and near continuous rainfall for several months. Week after week we have heard of new records for high rainfall being established; for the majority of us this has simply been inconvenient while others have suffered dreadfully through repeated flooding. For our farmers, who toil all year long to provide us with the food we need, it can mean disaster.

In the meantime high grain prices were pushing up feed prices

for livestock farmers. Thousands of stock-farmers had to bring their animals back indoors to prevent them damaging valuable grazing land in the wet conditions.

Following the call to prayer, the Dairy Coalition agreed a new strategy to secure the long term future of the British dairy industry. The 10 point plan focuses on exposing bad practices, redefining and empowering the farmers' role in the supply chain and ensuring the supply chain is transparent and fair.

For more see www.nfonline.com/News/Dairy-campaign-strategy-agreed/

Farm Crisis Network is available to provide practical and pastoral support to anyone in the farming community. FCN's national helpline operates from 7.00am to 11.00 pm every day of the year: 0845 367 9990.

Put the 'I' in campaign

Last year's **Bye Buy Childhood Campaign** has given the **Mothers' Union** the ear of the Government and credibility in campaigning. **Simon Kerr** reports on its success and a training day aiming to help others to launch campaigns that make a difference.

The success of Bye Buy Childhood can be seen in the concrete results - easier ways for parents to complain about the media, a reinforcement of the 9pm watershed on the television and a high profile Government report, written by Reg Bailey, Chief Executive of the Mothers' Union, making recommendations to help stop the commercialisation and sexualisation of childhood. The campaign was featured in the September 2011 edition of *the Door* as church goes in the Diocese were urged to get involved.

And the Oxford MU branch held a training day for those with no experience of campaigning, including a review of Bye Buy Childhood.

The Bye Buy Childhood campaign grew out of a series of research and partnership meetings held by the social policy unit of the Mothers' Union central office. These included interested MPs and turned into talks and workshops to members as part of the core research.

Work on the campaign started in 2009. It included media work, resource planning and a public opinion poll of 2,000 parents. Reg Bailey was invited to attend a Government roundtable on commercialisation and sexualisation of childhood, and consequently to chair an independent government commission that produced the Bailey Review.

Early last year a petition was handed to 10 Downing Street and Ireland launched a postcard campaign. The review made recommendations to businesses (advertisers, retailers, music, television and film industries), parents and regulators. One recommendation became a reality with the launch of the Parentport website, helping parents make a complaint to the UK's media regulators, find out about media standards and share their views.

Tony Baldry, MP for North Oxfordshire spoke at the training day, answering a series of questions about

engaging with the political process in campaigning: What is the role of an MP in the campaign process? What effect does lobbying have and what is the most effective way to go about this? How many letters need to be sent before there is action on a topic? What are good and bad ways to write letters to MPs? Do petitions work? What should be avoided in campaigning? What goes on behind the scenes at Parliament and how long does it take for an issue raised to make it to the debating stage? How long is it before actual noticeable change might happen?

The day also looked at was the process of running a campaign. It was described as a planning cycle with the following stages: analysing the issue, developing a strategy, planning the campaign, campaign delivery, monitoring progress and finally evaluation. There were plenty of insights and a lot of battle hardened experience shared.

For example the MU took advantage of being a membership organisation by consulting its members, and was realistic about its budget and resources. The latter two considerations were combined in using an external research company in the process of the Bye Buy Childhood campaign. The process requires a lot of creative thinking; determining a workable timescale for a campaign is important, as is being aware that the activity of the campaign should not become the campaign. The letters, petitions, meetings, lobbying, are not an end in themselves, they are just the means.

In planning it was considered worthwhile asking "what would success look like?" Inevitably there were many lessons drawn on engaging with the media in its many forms - social media, press releases, e-mail campaigning and branding and marketing.

The final session was a workshop for



the participants to turn what they had heard into applied lessons. It gave a chance for attendees to answer the question "How would you run a campaign on a specific issue where you are?" In pairs trainees worked up solutions to the various challenges of a campaign on a live issue - the extension of VAT to historic buildings. The collective wisdom of the group was gathered and shared in the workshop which generated a 'can-do' attitude for the group.

The training day was very effective and there is a relevance for us as Christians. One of the things we have as a purpose, is to be active in seeking social justice. God acknowledges that we have to live in the physical world before we get to his realm. Campaigning is a way to improve our world in a way that impacts more people than we physically meet and know directly. Is that what he wants you to do?

LIVING FAITH MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD



Top, Rosemary Kempshall, Worldwide President of the MU with campaigners outside number 10. Above, Reg Bailey with the Prime Minister. Picture: the Mother's Union

ONLINE

A video of a speech by Reg Bailey on campaigning can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/cs79ehq>. The Parentport website is www.parentport.org.uk Tony Baldry's is at: <http://tinyurl.com/bnmcmgc>

Make a Pact to make a difference

CHURCHES across the Diocese are being urged to join a new programme launched by Parents And Children Together (PACT). PACT Parishes invites churches to partner with the charity to make a difference to families in their local communities.

It could be just the thing if you are looking to support a community project as part of the Living Faith year: Making a Difference in the World, or an activity for the Month of Sundays in October. PACT has been supporting local communities across the Diocese since it was founded by the Bishop of Oxford in 1911. The charity runs community projects and children's centres, and supports families experiencing problems like homelessness and domestic abuse as well as acting as an adoption and fostering agency.

Kate Pollard, PACT Director of Fundraising and Marketing, said: "PACT is incredibly fortunate to benefit from the immense generosity of churches within the Diocese of Oxford. We are so grateful for your prayers, fundraising and support.

"We have launched PACT Parishes to form partnerships with as many churches as possible, and to offer something back in return for their support." PACT Parishes is easy and simple for parishes to take part in. Churches sign up to support PACT with at least one activity a year such as having a plate collection, making PACT your Advent cause, or running a quiz night. The charity's Fundraising and Marketing Team will offer support and materials as well as innovative and fun fundraising ideas too.

PACT will support the PACT Parishes with updates about the difference your fundraising is making to children and families in your local community through case studies, display materials and newsletter articles.

Parishioners can visit projects or volunteer to see first hand the difference they are making. The key to the scheme is flexibility: PACT and the parish working together in a mutually beneficial partnership, tailored to what the parish finds most useful.

St Luke's in Maidenhead, is a PACT Parish and houses the PACT Ekta project supporting Asian families in its church hall.

Reverend Sally Lynch says, "St Luke's is proud to support PACT, and working with Ekta has been of huge benefit to our parish. I would encourage other churches to become PACT Parishes."

More information is available on the PACT website, www.pactcharity.org. To register your interest in becoming a PACT Parish, or for information or resources for your church, please email fundraising@pactcharity.org or call 0118 938 7601.



A child holds a candle at last year's 100th anniversary PACT celebrations. Pic: PACT.



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Tuning up for rural worship

Once a year for nearly 10 years more than 200 people from rural churches from four dioceses get together to learn more about how multi parish benefices work, worship and play. The next, focussing on worship, takes place on January 28, 2013. **Glyn Evans** previews what will be happening.

If you are a worship leader planning music for worship (and some people are asked to do this without any real knowledge of music), if you are a musician or singer involved in leading worship, if you are a church member inspired and excited by music in worship then this conference is for you. Some churches find it difficult to get singers for a choir, and an organist to play and want to try new forms of music and singing, some are using electronic accompaniment and want to know more about what is available and how to get the best out of the equipment. The 2013 conference will offer you a chance to discover more. The conference is for anyone involved in the rural church in the Dioceses of Coventry, Gloucester, Oxford and Worcester.

This year Pete Gunstone, Music Director at St Andrew's Church, Oxford and Andrew Maries the consultant for Liturgy and Music in the Exeter Diocese and who runs the Keynote Trust are planning the conference. Pete and Andrew were recently interviewed by the Bishop of Dorchester, The Rt Revd Colin Fletcher, who will chair the day.

Bishop Colin: Tell us why you have proposed the theme of music and worship.

Pete: As the music director of a large suburban church, I am very aware that we are in the unusual position of having a large team of musicians who are willing and able to lead the musical aspect of worship effectively. In contrast when I lived in the Lee Abbey community in a rural part of Exmoor I came across many remote rural churches who were experiencing the challenge of providing music for their worship.

Andrew: Working as I do across the Exeter Diocese with its many rural churches and through my work with the Keynote Trust I encounter many churches struggling to find a lone organist or other musician to lead congregational singing. Some are experimenting creatively with the use



Pics: Istock.

of CDs and digital hymnals; others are learning to sing unaccompanied, but some have given up altogether and are sad about having done so.

Bishop Colin: In that case, why haven't more churches simply abandoned music in worship? Does worship have to include music? Is it really important?

Pete: Music doesn't need to be part of every act of worship – quiet, contemplative worship for example – but the Bible does often give us a picture of worship through singing and this is a useful model for us. For instance, Psalm 95 vs 2 exhorts us to come before God (in the temple) "with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song" and this idea is echoed in many of the Psalms. In the New Testament the apostle Paul encourages the church in Ephesus (which probably met in homes) to "speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord".

Andrew: Music is also important because it connects with three essential elements of worship. It can heighten our experience of the spiritual and it brings us together; enables us to express our identity as the Body of Christ - individual voices become one voice. Music also comes out of different cultures and is an important way of connecting in mission.

Bishop Colin: Okay so in the light of all this, what is this day conference going to be about, what will you be able to achieve, and why should people come?

Peter: First of all, we will worship together, to fulfill our primary biblical calling. The conferences have found that many who worship all

the time in small congregations really enjoy this experience of a large group worshipping. After this, Andrew will help us to think through the essentials of congregational worship in the context of the local church. We are going to offer a range of workshops from which those who come will be able to choose two.

We are planning workshops around:

- How to engage the congregation in singing
- What to do when there is no organist or other musician to lead congregational singing
- How to lead and mentor musicians & worship leaders in the local church
- Practical advice and ideas for service leaders who don't feel they have a wealth of musical experience
- Music & Mission: exploring the possibilities of choirs and singing groups in the church and local community
- Developing a more creative approach to the whole worship environment, which might use recorded music, and other means of expressions such as visuals or symbolism.

We are also working on getting some exhibitors to attend with stalls and resources. We hope that people will be encouraged to look for new ways of using music in worship and be inspired to build the Kingdom wherever God has called them.

Andrew: The networking is important too for mutual encouragement, sharing good ideas.

Bishop Colin: Thank you – that all sounds very inspiring. I am really looking forward to being there and chairing the event. Archbishop William Temple rightly said that 'the local church is the hope of the world.' In my work in the Oxford diocese I see signs of much hope as do my colleagues

in the other dioceses involved in this annual event. I encourage everyone who is involved in music in church to come. Even those who know they are not musicians will be able to gain from a day like today. I am sure that all will come expectantly, willing to be encouraged, equipped and empowered for that fundamental work of building the Kingdom of God in our churches.

A flier and booking details are being produced. To register your interest in the conference email Melanie Hawgood on melanie.hawgood@oxford.anglican.org or call 01865 208252.





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2012 Ordinations

Introducing ou

The Door introduces some of the 30 new Deacons who were ordained to serve in parishes in Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire this summer. The ordinations took place at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford on Saturday 30 June.



Ordination service at Christ Church Cathedral on 30 June at 10am with the Bishop of Oxford

Back (left to right): Mark Bodeker, Andrew Bond, Jonathan Drake, David Ramsbottom, Simon Steer, John Aldis. Middle (left to right): Elizabeth Newman, Dominic Keech. Front (left to right) Terence Winrow, Sue Cooke, Penelope Cuthbert, Neil Bryson. Photo by KT Bruce.

'I love to get out on my mountain bike, when I can. When I can't I work as Chief Financial and Operating Officer for a small, international bio-technology group. I grew up in Christ Church, New Zealand but my home and family is in Oxfordshire.' - **Mark Bodeker will serve at All Saints', Didcot.**

'I grew up in Kenya and worshipped at Nairobi Cathedral. For me the importance of the world wide Anglican Communion is very precious. I am a commercial lawyer in London and will be a minister in Pangbourne where I live with my wife Caroline.' - **Andrew Bond will serve at Pangbourne with Tidmarsh and Sulham.**

'I enjoy sports, especially tennis, golf and rowing and time with friends. I also love spicy food having founded curry clubs in both Oxford and Cambridge. I look forward to getting involved in these activities and more at Wargrave and Knowl Hill when I start as a curate.' - **Jonathan Drake will serve at Wargrave with Knowl Hill.**

'My ordination follows careers in the civil service and primary/nursery teaching. I am married with two adult daughters and one grand-daughter. Other interests include my airedale terrier, a 1955 MG, singing and choir training. I look forward to sharing ministry and mission with the people of St John's.' - **David Ramsbottom will serve at Crowthorne, St John the Baptist.**

'I will take up the position of Chaplain at Abingdon School. I have worked in Indonesia, India, Israel and the USA. In

the UK, I served as Principal of Redcliffe College and London School of Theology. I am a keen sportsman, a qualified cricket coach and have completed 16 marathons.' - **Simon Steer will serve at Abingdon, Christ Church.**

'I was born in Galmi in Niger and while my parents were serving as medical missionaries, I studied law at Kebel College, intending to become a barrister, but experienced a call to the ministry. I am married to Rachel.' - **John Aldis will serve at St Nicholas, Newbury.**

'Four days after my ordination, ten of us from my church went to Ndola in Zambia for ten days. We visited the Jubilee Centre which is a church (Zambian) run compound for people with or affected by HIV/AIDs.' - **Elizabeth Newman will serve at Earley, St Nicholas.**

'Originally from Huntingdonshire Fens, my family roots are in Germany and I spent time as a child in Botswana. Before training for ordination, I studied Theology at Oxford and then spent a happy year working for the diocese, where I felt God calling me to ministry in his Church.' - **Dominic Keech will serve in Wantage, SS Peter and Paul.**

'I have lived in the Newbury area for 40 years and in Wash Common for 30. I have served as Licensed Lay Minister there for the last seven years with a focus on children and young people.' - **Terence Winrow will serve at Wash Common, St George the Martyr.**

'Previously a religious studies teacher and ultimately a deputy head, my faith journey began in the Methodist church and went, via the Church of England, Brethren and Baptist Churches. I also spent several years as an atheist. Nine years ago God sent me to a Fresh Expression church and from there I have never looked back.' - **Sue Cooke will serve at Sunningdale.**

'I was born and bred in Reading and I'm delighted I'll be working in the parish that is now home to a premier league football team. I love sport and still play hockey for Phoenix and Ranelagh in Reading. I am married to Simon and we have three boys.' - **Penelope Cuthbert will serve at Reading St Agnes with St Paul and St Barnabas.**

'Before I qualified as a teacher the College Principal told us that teaching was 'next in importance to the sacred ministry'. Medics, she declared came third. Little did I know that I would not be a teacher, but later a homeopath and soon I am to be ordained deacon.' - **Neil Bryson will serve at Maidenhead All Saints Boyne Hill.**

'I have worked as a theatre and opera director as well as a film director and writer for the charitable and educational sector. I used to direct theatre productions for Oxford Stage Company at the Playhouse. I have directed a documentary on science and religion featuring leading Oxford academics.' - **Mark Brickman will serve at St Aldate's, Oxford.**

'My first degree is in computer science and I have played around with computers since I was eleven years old. I thought, naively that I had left the world of IT behind, but it seems that God has a sense of humour and that IT/technical support is part of my vocation.' - **Thomas Albinson will serve at Littlemore.**



Ordination service at Christ Church Cathedral on

Back (left to right): Mark Brickman, Thomas Albinson, Lucy Gardner, Katherine Cooke.. Front (left to right) Photo by KT Bruce.

Our new Deacons

'I am an experienced social worker and have spent much of my life developing services for disabled children in Oxfordshire before lecturing at the Universities of Winchester and Gloucestershire. I am chair of the Oxfordshire branch of the British Association of Social Workers and am an independent social worker and teach at Oxford Brookes.' - **Nick Pike will serve at Cogges, South Leigh and North Leigh.**

'I spent 20 years working as a worship pastor and music director in churches in Reading, London and Taunton. I am married to Kath, who is also ordained to a curacy in neighbouring Eynsham and Cassington. We have two teenage children. I previously worked as a researcher in rural homelessness.' - **Phil Cooke will serve at Hanborough and Freeland.**

'I read theology at St John's College, Oxford and taught Christian Doctrine at St Stephen's House, training ordinands, since 1993. I have written on Swiss theologian and priest Hans Urs von Balthasar and feminist theology and have recently been part of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Building Bridges seminars between Muslim and Christian scholars.' - **Lucy Gardner will serve at Wheatley. Sarah Northall will serve in the benefice of Iffley, Oxford.**

'Originally an Essex girl, I come to Eynsham and Cassington following ten years in Reading where I worked as a child-minder and supporting adults with learning difficulties. I am married to Phil, who is also ordained to a curacy in neighbouring Hanborough and Freeland. We have two teenage children.' - **Kath Cooke will serve at Eynsham and Cassington.**

'I was born in Canada to an English father and a Canadian mother (herself half American). As well as Canada I have lived in Germany, the United States and Ghana. I am a music lover, a keen singer and a choral singer at university.' - **James Stickings will serve at Headington Quarry.**

'I was born in Croydon but have lived in Bicester for the past ten years. I am a director of a consultancy business, a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Marketing and I enjoy playing squash, the cinema and writing poetry. I have a GCE in Astronomy and a degree in Chemistry.' - **Peter Wright will serve at Bicester with Bucknell, Caversfield and Launton.**

'I will be moving from Abingdon to Beaconsfield to serve as Assistant Curate at St Mary's. I was previously an IT consultant and trained on the Oxford Ministry Course. I am a keen bell ringer, motorsports fan and leisure runner. I have been supported by my wife, Lesley-Anne and our university aged children Tiffany and James.' - **Kevin Beer will serve at Beaconsfield.**

hope to show the people of Buckingham how amazing it is to be a Christian.' - **Richard Rugg will serve at Buckingham.**

'I have worked on the streets of Manila in the Philippines working with a charity to help street children plus cooked burgers for football teams in Milton Keynes and served hot drinks to people outside Bristol Cathedral. I want to continue to share the good news of Jesus with everyone I meet.' - **Ian Herbert will serve at Haddenham with Cuddington and Kingsey and Aston Sandford.**

'I went on a 180 mile cycling pilgrimage from Sonning in Berkshire to the selection panel in Staffordshire and this gave me the green light for ordination. My cycling continued in the North East with students at Durham University's cycling club. I was



Ordination service at Christ Church Cathedral on 30 June at 2pm with the Bishop of Buckingham

Back (left to right): Tim Dawson, Kevin Beer, Christoph Lindner, Michael Hunt, Richard Rugg, Ian Herbert. Front (left to right) Julie Wearing, Sue Morton. Photo by KT Bruce.

Tim Dawson will serve in the benefice of Newport Pagnell with Lathbury and Moulsoe.

'When we came to Gerrards Cross from Germany in 2000 my wife, Edda, and I thought we might stay for three years. We are still here! Edda leads the children's work at St James and I have been ordained and will serve my curacy there. We are truly at home here and excited about the future.' - **Christoph Lindner will serve at Gerrards Cross and Fulmer.**

'I'm looking forward to starting as Assistant Curate in the parishes of Wendover and Halton. I've always been interested in how faith interacts with our working lives and there will be more to discover as I start as a part-time curate and continue in part-time employment.' - **Michael Hunt will serve at Wendover and Halton.**

'I am married to Ada and we have two children, Anouk (five) and Illinca (two). I am looking forward to serving as Assitant Curate in Buckingham and I

president of the student body of ordinands and vice-president of undergraduates.' - **Julie Wearing will serve at Upton cum Chavley.**

'Sometimes we are given the opportunity for a fresh start. As I approached ordination, following a 15 year struggle with ME, I felt that I was being offered a new beginning, a second chance. I now realise that much of the preparation for this journey was made from my bed.' - **Sue Morton will serve at Hambleton Valley.**

John Hanks was also ordained on 30 June in a separate service and he will serve his curacy at Oxford St Barnabas and St Paul. John says, 'Originally from Sheffield I studied Theology at Durham before settling in Oxford where I work as a tax accountant and trust and charity administrator. I was a member of General Synod for ten years and am now looking forward to serving the church as a Deacon.'



30 June at 6pm with the Bishop of Oxford

on, Nick Pike, Philip Cooke. Middle (left to right): James Stickings, Sarah Northall, Peter Wright.



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Deciding on a school for your children is a tremendously important choice. In many cases a child's primary and secondary education can have repercussions throughout life.

With growing concerns surrounding much of education in Britain today, it should come as little surprise that Christian and independent schools maintain their popularity with parents, providing a strong spiritual and moral basis in all that they do. The more disciplined style of education seems to bear fruit and their academic results continue to impress and in many cases improve.

Faith based and independent schools, often have waiting lists or entrance examinations to help them maintain their standards of excellence, or offer open days for parents and prospective pupils to look around at what is on offer. With September being the start of the new academic year many schools will be opening their doors for parents to look around, to check out fees, facilities and possibly discuss boarding options. For children with particular talents the acceptance at specific schools can give them a strong

start to life. It could be a talent for singing or possibly sport. Over one third of British medal winners in the 2012 London Olympics were educated at fee-paying schools, which educate just 7% of the school population, a study by the Sutton Trust reveals.

Over half of Olympic winning rowers meanwhile were privately educated – compared with just under a third (coming from state comprehensive schools, with the remainder from grammars.

The research also finds that one in ten of British Olympic winners who attended a British university went to Oxford or Cambridge, and 60% attended a selective university.

The proportion of privately educated Olympic winners 37% is similar to that for MPs 35%, but less than leading journalists 54% or judges 70% according to Sutton Trust studies.

Sir Peter Lampl, Chairman of the Sutton Trust, said: "While we congratulate all our Olympic winners, this research shows that independent school students are more than 5 times over-represented amongst our medal winners relative to their proportion in the population –

which is also the case at leading universities and in the professions more generally.

"This comes as no surprise as children in independent schools benefit from ample time set aside for sport, excellent sporting facilities and highly qualified coaches, while in many state schools sport is not a priority, and sadly playing fields have been sold off." Education can be costly but many parents put money aside from the moment a child is born to prepare for the education of their child. Many fee paying independent schools offer bursaries to ensure that potential students with the academic potential do not miss out on a first class education for purely financial reasons.

A lot of prayer and advice will be undertaken in deciding what path to follow, even when inherent talents seem to make the choice a little more obvious. For younger Christians the path may have already been discussed when choosing subjects for A levels but for many older Christians starting a course could well be a part of a change in life's direction.



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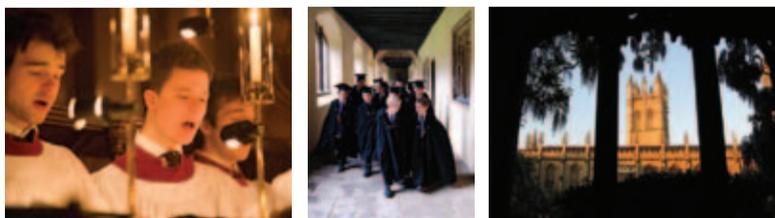
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For more information, or to arrange an informal interview and audition, please contact Jacky Barratt, Chapel and Choir PA.



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The Doorpost

Courses, training, conferences and workshops in September 2012.

The Doorpost is a free service for churches to advertise their events and is designed to be hung on church noticeboards. Please send your events to doorpost@oxford.anglican.org or by post to Church House. The deadline for the next issue is Friday 7 September 2012.

SATURDAY 1 SEPTEMBER

BECKLEY: Concert at St Mary's Church at 7.30pm. Chris Britton (flute) and Raymond Burley (guitar) recital 'Nocturne: from the Baroque to the present day'. Details 01865 351270.

SUNDAY 2 SEPTEMBER

GREAT MISSENDEN: Cream teas at St Peter and St Paul every Sunday from 3pm - 5pm until 7 October. See www.missendenchurch.org.uk for details of events and open days.
CHARLBURY: St Mary's Church invite you to an Ice Cream Sundae and Path of Pounds from 2.30pm - 4.30pm to raise money to restore and improve the church after the recent fire. Ice cream, teas and homemade cakes and games for all the family. Details 01608 810286.

THURSDAY 6 SEPTEMBER

DEDDINGTON: A series of talks at the Parish Church on A History of Christianity in fifteen objects. No. 14 by Mr Martin Palmer. Begins at 7.30pm. Free admission. Details www.historyofchristianity.org.uk

SATURDAY 8 SEPTEMBER

RIDE AND STRIDE 2012: Find out more about the Ride and Stride routes taking place throughout the diocese. www.ohct.org.uk, www.berkschurchestrust.org.uk/ridestride and www.bucks-historic-churches.org/

WESTON TURVILLE: Autumn Fayre at St Mary the Virgin

HP22 5SH from 2pm - 5pm. Details 01296 424982 or 01296 612303.

SUNDAY 9 SEPTEMBER

COOKHAM: 'Mozart in Cookham' at Holy Trinity Church. Albrecht string quartet, with clarinet, recital at 7pm. Tickets £10 (£5 students). In aid of Holy Trinity Church Restoration Appeal. Details www.holytrinitycookham.org.uk

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY: Resources and information available at www.ctbi.org.uk/588/

SATURDAY 15 SEPTEMBER

MARLOW: Concert at All Saints' Church (on the bridge) at 7.30pm. 'Songs from the musical theatre'. Tickets £10 (family ticket £20) available on the door or phone 01628 473020.

FARMOOR: Oxfordshire Play Association have a play day at Hill End Centre, Eynsham Road, Farmoor, Oxford OX2 9NJ from 11am - 3pm. Details 01865 779474.

GREAT MISSENDEN: An illustrated talk on 'Coaching Inns in Buckinghamshire' by Julian Hunt. Begins at 7pm (for 7.30pm) at the Oldham Hall, Church Street HP16 0AZ. Entrance £8 on the door (includes a drink). Email avd@davis.f9.co.uk

THURSDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

DEDDINGTON: A series of talks at the Parish Church on A History of

Christianity in fifteen objects. No. 15 Statue of Christ the King by The Revd Dr Daniel Inman. Begins at 7.30pm. Free admission. Details www.historyofchristianity.org.uk

SATURDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

WESTON TURVILLE: Concert by the Freeth Duo at St Mary the Virgin Church HP22 5SH from 7.30pm. Details 01296 424982 or 01296 612303.

SUNDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

CCJ (Oxford Council for Christians and Jews) meeting: A joint meeting with Birmingham CCJ at Coughton Court in Warwickshire. The seminar will be with Rachel Seiffert, author of *The Dark Room*. Details from Lindsay on cjrelations@ccj.org.uk

GREAT HASELEY: Evensong, sung by the choir of Merton College, Oxford at St Peter's Church at 5.30pm.

WEDNESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

TURVILLE: Hambleden Valley, near Henley. Healing service with laying on of hands and anointing at Holy Communion at 10.15am. Details 01491 571231.

ABINGDON: A day of reflection and contemplation at St Ethelwold's House, 30 East St Helen Street, OX14 5EB from 10.30am - 4pm. Bring and share lunch. Suggested donation £10. Please book your place by phoning 01235 55486 or email ethelwoldhouse@btinternet.com.

Courses and special events

ENNEAGRAM WORKSHOPS: An opportunity to embark on a journey of self-discovery. A series of three workshops facilitated by Josephine Seccombe to be held at St Michael at the North Gate Church, Oxford. Stage 1: 15 September; Stage 2: 20 October and Stage 3: 24 November. Details at www.ocsg.uk.net

FIT FOR THE PURPOSE - 14 to 16 September: This weekend to be held at St John's, Nottingham will help you to discover God's calling on your life. Details from 0115 968 3224 or email conferences@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk

MISSION AND EVANGELISM: If you would like to think more about growing in your discipleship, you might be interested in the following courses that will look at ways in which we can join in God's work in the world, both as individuals and in what we do as churches - Monday evenings beginning on 17 September in Oxford; Tuesday evenings beginning on 18 September in Aylesbury and Thursday evenings beginning on 20 September in Iver,

Bucks. Each course is for 10 weeks and runs from 7.15pm - 9.30pm. The cost for the 10 week course is £36. Further details and booking form from sheila.townsend@oxford.anglican.org or 01865 208277.

PREACHING FROM LUKE: A training day to be led by Darrell Hannah on preaching from the Gospel of Luke (Sunday Gospel for 2013). To be held at Diocesan Church House on Wednesday 26 September from 10.30am - 3pm. Details and booking form available from jeni.hobbs@oxford.anglican.org

FINANCIAL CONSULTATIONS 2012: The following dates are now fixed for the different areas within the Diocese. **OXFORD** area - Saturday 22 September at CMS, Watlington Road, Oxford OX4 6BZ (time to be confirmed). **BERKS** area - Saturday 29 September at Ranelagh School, Bracknell RG12 9DA (time to be confirmed). **BUCKS** area - Saturday 6 October at Waddesdon School, Waddesdon, Aylesbury HP18 0LQ (time to be confirmed). Further details from 01865 208206 or email bev.jane@oxford.anglican.org

Services at Christ Church Cathedral

SUNDAYS: 8am Holy Communion; 10am Matins (coffee in priory room); 11.15am Sung Eucharist; 6pm Evensong.
WEEKDAYS: 7.15am Morning Prayer; 7.35am Holy Communion; 1pm (Wednesday only) Holy Communion; 6pm Evensong (Thursday Sung Eucharist 6pm).
AFTER EIGHT: Time to reflect, time to pray. Contemporary liturgies for mind and spirit on Sundays at 8pm.
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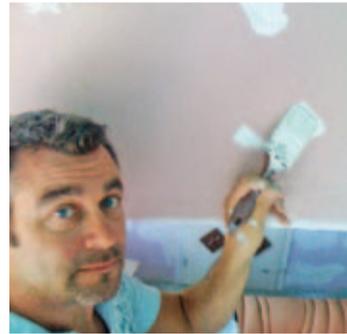
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PIONEERING IN BETHLEHEM FOR PALESTINIAN YOUTH

On Friday June 1st, in a hot café in East Jerusalem, a contract was signed, and Cross Rhythms became the proud tenants of a property just 5 minutes stroll from the Church of the Nativity, Manger Square, Bethlehem!



What a development! What an address! With feet now planted in the land, this will be our base from which to reach out to young Palestinian Arabs through media. Already we are decorating and soundproofing to prepare for the setting up of radio studios. We have received enough for us to rent this base for 9 months, nothing more, and upon that basis we believe God says to us 'move forward'.

PIONEERING IN INDIA



On Wednesday May 16th, in a sweaty, steamy 45°C, in the central Indian city of Warangal, a young man, Karunakar, stood with several of his trustees, and gave thanks to God for the provision of the very first piece of equipment for what will one day be the Cross Rhythms Warangal community radio station – the very first of it's kind in India! With this first small computer, God says to us 'move forward'.

PIONEERING IN THAILAND



On Friday 25th May, hundreds of miles further away, the board of the Christian Leprosy Mission of Thailand, met in a Bangkok Christian guest house, and agreed to cover the travel costs of a young man, DJ Mark Kittikhun, as he pioneers the Cross Rhythms Thailand radio show, going out every week on Thai National Radio into the vast Chainat region north of Bangkok. With one young presenter and some bus fare, God says to us 'move forward'.

All these pioneering kingdom opportunities, just like our website and our UK FM community radio stations in Stoke, Plymouth and Teesside, are all extremely fragile – acted upon and held together by every vestige of faith, trust and confidence in God.

As the scripture God keeps bringing to mind this year declares: **'Lean on, trust in, and be confident in the Lord with all your heart and mind and do not rely on your own insight or understanding.'** Proverbs 3:5.

In pioneering works God does not give you the plans and the resources up front, He does not tell you how it all will come together. He simply says "Come, follow me!"

But that is a big part of the DNA of Cross Rhythms. We have always been a pioneering ministry:

- When the church said 'Rock n Roll is of the devil', Cross Rhythms was born and miraculously given a half hour Christian rock n roll radio show on local radio!

- When little resource was poured into youth ministry, Cross Rhythms was raised up to deliver a youth focussed, Holy Spirit filled, music and arts festival!
- When pretty much all Christian radio and TV was targeting a Christian audience, Cross Rhythms was given the very first UK community radio station licence, delivering full time FM radio with Christian values into the marketplace and wider communities outside our church walls!

Pioneering is in our roots! Pioneering is in our blood!

In September we take in our first students to train up as accredited media missionaries for the next generation. And this summer, in response to the call 'May your broadcast children be as numerous as the stars', we begin work on a dedicated online radio station to reach the youth of our nation.

BUT PIONEERS CAN ONLY DELIVER SO MUCH ON THEIR OWN

To consolidate and establish, to nurture and to cause a work to thrive, pioneers need many others to come alongside them.

Even Jesus, the Pioneer of the kingdom of God, had help: 'Jesus traveled about... proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, and also some women... Mary... Joanna... Susanna... and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.' Luke 8:1-3.

Today we profess our future! But for these pioneering works to succeed, today we need the 'many others'. Those who will 'support us out of their own means', and share in pioneering with us.

- Mothers and fathers, will you pioneer with us for your children's generation?
- Grandmothers and grandfathers, will you invest and make a difference for your children's children?
- Young men and women, will you pioneer with us for your own generation, and for your own future?

£20,000 + +

- **Cross Rhythms requires £20,000 to meet current urgent needs** – will you 'support us out of your own means' by donating whatever amount you can?
- **Cross Rhythms requires a growth in income of about £1,500 per month in order to stand still** – will you 'support us out of your ongoing means' as a Friend of Cross Rhythms at £10+ per month?
- **Cross Rhythms requires additional increase to maximise the opportunities of the pioneering future ahead** – Are you able to 'support us out of any significant means' to invest into creatively developing these opportunities?

It's really not much though is it? For the impact? For the lives changed? For the influence around the world? But without it, not only will Cross Rhythms NOT move into its future, it will NOT survive its present.

Today, we face a Red Sea, and God calls us to take our steps of faith: 'Then the LORD said to Moses, "Tell the Israelites to move forward. Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water!"'

Today, at Cross Rhythms we hear God saying to us 'move forward'. Do you hear Him asking you to 'move forward' with us? In faith will you 'stretch out your hand' towards us? Let's see what the Lord will do!

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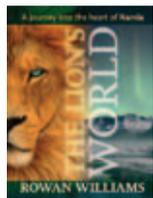
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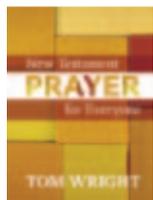
Forthcoming books for the festive season

Planning early for Christmas stocking fillers or looking for some Advent inspiration. **The Door** previews some new titles for 2012.

The Lion's World – A journey into the heart of Narnia, by Rowan Williams. £8.99, SPCK. The Archbishop of Canterbury writes an account of the Narnia novels, unlocking their Christian symbolism and exploring the moral and spiritual wisdom that CS Lewis intended to convey. The book answers contemporary critics including Philip Pullman over charges of sexism, violence and racial stereotyping and contains specially commissioned illustrations.



New Testament Prayer For Everyone by Tom Wright. £9.99 SPCK. A distillation of Tom Wright's meditations on prayer, drawn from his *For Everyone* series. Tom translates all the major prayers in the New Testament and gives insights into the teaching of Jesus and the apostles on the meaning and practice of prayer.

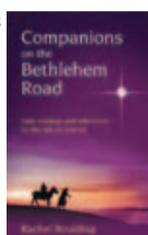


Seasonal Activities for Christmas Festivities £8.99 BRF

Three five-week teaching programmes exploring the true meaning of Christmas with 7–11s by Vicki Howie. Each programme contains five off-the-peg sessions to help children discover the true meaning of Christmas and its personal significance. Each session includes preparation for leaders; icebreaker activity; drama games; crafts; dramatised Bible stories; discussion starters; prayers and take-home activities.



Companions on the Bethlehem Road Daily readings and reflections for the Advent journey by Rachel Boulding. (BRF £7.99.) Reflections for every day from 1 December to 6 January (Epiphany). Based around spiritual insights for life's journey found in some of the great poets of the past, including T.S. Eliot, Alfred Tennyson and George Herbert.



The Recovery of Love: Walking the way to wholeness, (BRF £6.99) by Naomi Starkey.



What does it mean to say that we love God? That God loves us? What difference can such love make to the way we love other people?

So often when we reflect on our experiences of love, we are conscious of our shortcomings and failures. We labour under the sense

of not being 'good enough' for other people or for God.

The story weaves together reflection on well-known and less-known passages of the Bible that explore love, helping you to reflect on your own experience of love and begin to recognise signs of God's presence and care, perhaps when and where you least expect it.

My Carry-along Angel Activity Book with stickers by Jocelyn Miller and illustrated by Cathy Hughes (£5.99 Lion Hudson) features a mixture of crafts to make and on-the-page activities, all designed to be made with simple materials and evoke the wonder and sparkle of Christmas angels. It is for children aged five to seven.



The Christmas Story, by Marie Allen (Lion Hudson £5.99) is a re-telling of Mary and Joseph's journey, their special baby and the wondrous events that surround them. Suitable for children aged three to five, the story is expanded to give a little more detail and to enable it to be read as a continuous tale.



Baby Jesus, (Lion Hudson, £3.99) illustrated by Chris Embleton Hall explores the concept of faith in an approachable way. Tabs feature a character or object poking out from the

pages to give children aged three to five a clue to the scene on the page they are about to turn to.



Win a book

The Door has three copies of *Windows on a Hidden World, Exploring the Advent Landscape*, by the Revd Jane Maycock to give away. The book, which is worth £7.99 and published by SPCK Publishing contains daily readings for December 1 to 25.



Christmas, as you have probably experienced, is often a busy and somewhat stressful time. As a priest, married to a vicar with four young children, Jane is all too familiar with the struggle not to be engulfed by busyness in the run-up to Christmas. She has written reflections infused with real-life happening as they invite us to stop and consider what Advent really means.

For the chance to win this month's prize draw send your name and address to Windows competition, *the Door*, Diocesan Church House, North Hinksey Lane, Oxford, OX2 0NB. The closing date for entries is Friday, 14 September.

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Watlington & District Nursing Home

Hill Road, Watlington, Oxfordshire OX49 5AE
 Tel: 01491 613400

Yarnton Residential and Nursing Home

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Simple exercises to improve balance could help reduce falls among older people.

A study where a group of over-70s performed straight forward exercises at home, such as standing on one leg, saw the increase in balance and strength lead to a 31% drop in accidents.

A team of researchers at the University of Sydney developed the LIFE (Lifestyle Integrated Functional Exercise) programme, a daily routine including simple-to-do tasks such as walking, stepping over objects and moving from sitting to standing.

They studied more than 300 people over 70 and recorded a 31% drop in accidents as a result of the improved balance and strength the programme promotes.

It is estimated that falls by older people in England alone costs the NHS £4.6m a day, with up to one in three people aged over 65 suffering at least one fall each year. Falls account for more than half of all hospital admissions for accidental injury among people over 70.

The researchers found that less than 10% of older people regularly do exercises to improve strength and even fewer do routines that could improve balance, even though balance and strength training is known to reduce falls in older people.

Ageing specialist Professor Lindy Clemson said: 'LIFE is a tailored programme of embedded balance and strength activities, taught over five home



visits with two booster visits.

'It provides an alternative to traditional exercise to consider for fall prevention.'

'Functional based exercise should be a focus for interventions to protect older, high risk people from falling and to improve and maintain functional capacity.'

Prof Clemson said: 'Falling in older age has debilitating and isolating social consequences, along with high and escalating economic costs.'

'Falls can start a downward spiral of immobility, reduced confidence, and incapacity leading to institutionalisation.'

'Fall related admissions have not declined over the past ten years, and there is an imperative to develop effective strategies for fall prevention that are acceptable and sustainable over

the long term for older people.'

Michelle Mitchell, Charity Director General of Age UK said, 'The impact of a fall can be devastating and the scale of the issue is a real concern, especially as we know that so many falls could be prevented. Exercises that strengthen your muscles and help to improve co-ordination and balance are very effective in reducing the risk of falling.'

'We welcome these findings from the University of Sydney and we would encourage older people to integrate simple strength and balance exercises as an important part of an everyday routine.'

Our tips on strength and balance exercises to prevent falls:

- Exercise to prevent falls focuses on improving strength in your lower limbs. Use your own body weight, a resistance band or ankle weights to build strength.

- Try the 'sit to stand' exercise – sit tall near the front of a chair with your back straight, place your feet slightly behind your knees and slowly stand up. Then step back until your legs touch the chair and slowly sit down. This helps to

strengthen the muscles in your legs.

- Standing on one leg or doing exercises where you transfer your weight from one leg to the other will challenge your balance. You could also try 'heel raises' or 'toe raises' (repeat ten times) holding onto a sturdy chair or table for support if you need to.

- Older people at risk of falls should also have regular sight tests, medication reviews and make sure that the home environment is safe.

- If you have had a fall you should ask your GP for a falls risk assessment.

The researchers published their findings online in the British Medical Journal.



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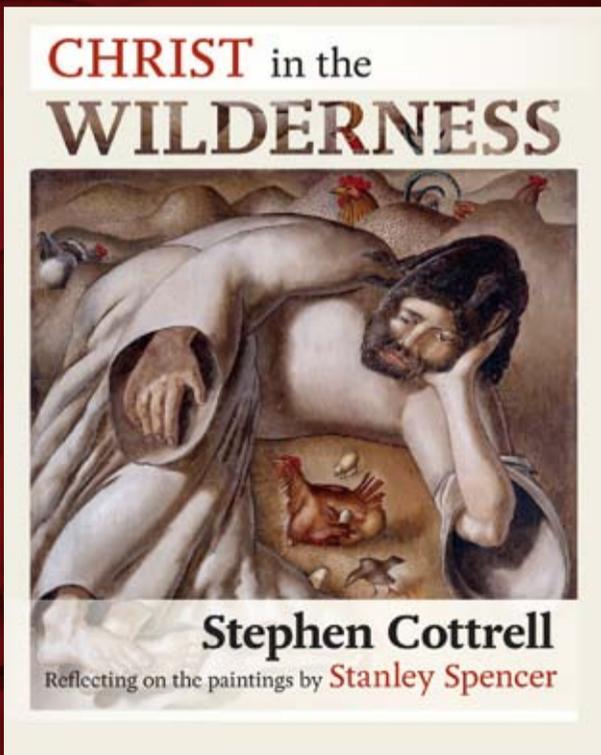


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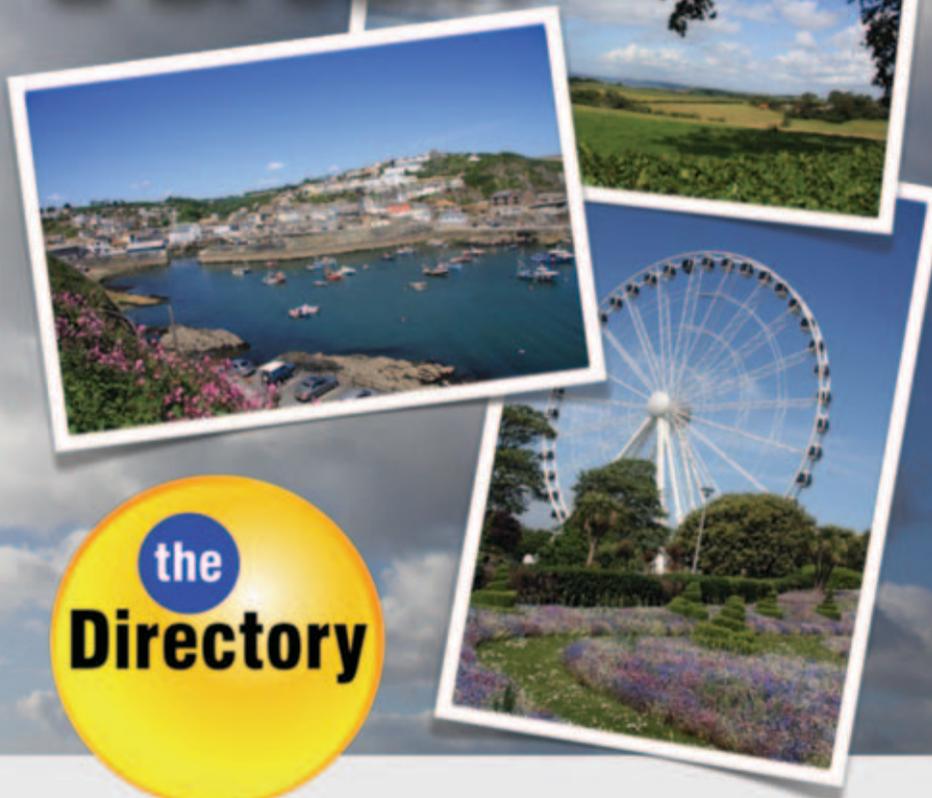
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Letters & comment



Comment

A soggy summer of spectacle

by Alan Wilson

Whatever next, after our soggy summer of spectacle? We all have, I hope, happy memories. I remember endless, fruitless, recreational key clicking on the Olympic ticket website. I recall the twinkle in the eye of a guest at a clergy widows' lunch, where various gazebos blew around the garden and had to be rescued. She thanked me at the end for "a lovely floor show." We aim to please. We still need to find new use for a bucket of 50 waterproof Union Jacks left over from our street party.

I hope we are inspired for the future. Jemma Samuel, our Buckinghamshire St John's Ambulance Cadet of the year, discovered during the Queen's Jubilee service at St Paul's, that the reading on the page was wrong. She recovered with grace, courage and dignity that filled everyone who heard with pride and hope. It was definitely one in the eye for negative stereotypes of young people.

Have we a renewed sense of community, identity and value? Could we stand our good news stories only lightly drizzled in irony? *The New York Times* thought Danny Boyle's Olympic opening ceremony showed renewed national pride in who we are — "the thing that is most British about the British is their anarchic spirit and their ability to laugh at themselves..."

Now for the legacy — young people inspired to take up sport, communities who are looking harder for an excuse to work and celebrate together, some first class social housing and infrastructure in the Olympic venues, and a stadium that will make an excellent home, some say, for Stratford Dog Racing if only they can find the cash.

And what of our Churches? Wise ones opened their doors in surprising ways that brought the neighbours in, sometimes for the first time. Assisted by More than Gold, the body that helps churches engage with the Olympics, homes and hearts have been opened to people from all over the world. Many have attended services of one sort or another, and a few have surprised themselves by how welcome it was to have done so. Many neighbours have resolved to see more of each other in future. And if a few Christians have caught an Olympic spirit of endeavour, courage, hard work, and mutual engagement, what kind of legacy would that be? Over to you.

For a full report on how churches have engaged with the Olympics and Paralympics, see the October Door.

The Rt Revd Alan Wilson is Bishop of Buckingham.



THE Flame of Faith ended its journey across the Buckinghamshire Archdeaconry at St Andrew's Church, Cippenham. The night before it had been at Burnham Abbey, where the sisters held a prayer vigil. Revd Janet Minkinen is pictured left, holding an Olympic torch. The Revd Lucy Holt holds the Deanery Flame of Faith while Archdeacon Karen holds the Flame of Faith. Picture by Paul Minkinen

Thought for the Month

By David Winter



'IN A LARGE HOUSE THERE ARE UTENSILS NOT ONLY OF GOLD AND SILVER BUT ALSO OF WOOD AND CLAY, SOME FOR SPECIAL USE, SOME FOR ORDINARY.' 2 TIMOTHY 2:2

In the mysterious vocabulary of those who compile our Church calendar we are now in 'Ordinary Time'. That doesn't refer to the fact that the Jubilee, the European Nations Cup and - hurray for them - the London Olympics are all now in the past and life has slipped back into the mundane. 'Ordinary Time', in this special churchy definition, is all those periods of the year between the juicy bits - the great festivals and saints' days - and the rest, like the endless Sundays after Trinity that we are now in.

Most of us spend most of our life trying to be 'ordinary' - not odd, not different, not bizarre or embarrassing. Look at teenagers pouring out of school, all the boys dressed exactly alike, all the girls in the secret uniform whose details are known only to those who have been initiated. Of course they're wearing school uniform, but their real uniformity is in how they wear it - what length the skirt is, how far down a tie knot can be slid. See them in the evening, hanging around the market place: there is no school uniform, but they're still identically dressed.

Of course sometimes we want to be

different - party time, perhaps. Out come the special clothes, the funny hats, the coloured hair. Perhaps the Church has got it about right: party time and ordinary time. In the balance of life, we need both. And both are there in the Bible.

Where the Gospels are concerned, we tend to remember the extraordinary bits - water turned into wine, storms stilled, lame people dancing and blind people seeing. Yet they are only extraordinary because their context is so utterly ordinary - women preparing meals, men sowing crops, feet being washed and taxes being collected. The whole setting is so ordinary that the amazing acts of power that Jesus did stand out like beacons. Yet they happened - and this is important - in the ordinary world, to ordinary people, in the ordinary circumstances of life. We can relate to the widow of Nain, the young couple at the wedding in Cana, the man who couldn't get into the pool at Bethesda. They are ordinary, and then this extraordinary thing happened to them.

In 'Ordinary Time' we have space and time to reflect on some of the wonderfully 'ordinary' events that have taken place in our lives, too - signs, surely, of the love and grace of God. I'm thinking of ordinary acts of kindness, generous words, quietly spoken prayers, the 'ordinary' hand on the shoulder in time of need, the 'ordinary' serenity of a life well lived.

Or, perhaps, they're all extraordinary, really.

Canon David Winter is a former Diocesan Adviser on evangelism, former BBC head of religious affairs, a broadcaster and the author of many books. www.davidwinter-author.co.uk.

LETTERS

Chancel repairs

Chancel repair liability was the subject of a debate in the Church of England General Synod in 1982. The Right Revd John Bone, at that time Archdeacon of Buckingham, spoke in support of the extinction of this medieval law which was criticised as being arbitrary, inequitable and archaic.

The Synod then voted for its extinction, to be phased out over a period of years, and this decision was passed to the Law Commission who published a Green Paper in 1983 and a White Paper in 1985. Unfortunately its proposals did not materialise into new legislation at that time.

In Aston Cantlow, Peterborough the unfortunate Wallbank family went through legal proceedings costing them £600,000 and were forced to sell their farm because of this medieval law. This resulted in the new provisions of the Land Registration Act 2002, under which any chancel repair liability not registered at HM Land Registry before October 2013 would be lost, and so would no longer be enforceable at law.

Our own Parish has published a guide with links to other websites, entitled: - "Chancel Repair Liability, a Churchwarden's Guide to Best Practice for Registration at HM Land Registry" which may be downloaded from www.holytrinitylaneend.org.uk under the heading 'Chancel Roof'.

If an existing liability attached to nearby land is known both to the PCC and to the owner, then it would be sensible for the PCC to register that liability at the Land Registry before October 2013. However, in other Parishes the PCC is at liberty to maintain its local reputation by taking no action to carry out historical research that might reveal long lost liabilities.

Bryan Edgley and David Shufflebotham, Holy Trinity Church, Lane End.

Competition winners

The winners of the competition featured in the July /August issue are: Helen Dick from Stanford in the Vale, Diane Guy from Caversham Heights and June Watson from Olney. They have all won a copy of *The Book of Common Prayer: Past, Present & Future*.

the Door

Editor: Jo Duckles Tel: 01865 208227

Email: jo.duckles@oxford.anglican.org

Editorial Assistant/Distribution: Debbie Dallimore

Tel: 01865 208225 Email: debbie.dallimore@oxford.anglican.org

Advertising: Roy Perring Tel: 01752 225623

Email: roy@cornerstonevision.com

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Comings and Goings:

The Revd Camilla Walton has taken up additional post as Area Dean of Amersham Deanery; The Revd Brian Wood will take up post as House for Duty at Akeman Benefice; The Revd Ronald Hawkes will take up post as Rector of Wykeham Benefice; The Revd Andrew Pritchard-Keens will take up post as Team Vicar of Beckley, Forest Hill, Horton cum Studley and Stanton St John; Capt John Bentley will take up post as Fresh Expressions New Communities Minister in Bicester; The Revd Hugh Ellis will take up post as Team Rector of High Wycombe; The Revd Mark Meardon will take up post as Associate Vicar at Hazlemere; The Revd Nick

Jackson will take up post as Vicar of Woodley Southlake St James; The Revd Barry Olsen will retire from his post as Associate Clergy at Rotherfield Peppard and Kidmore End and Sonning Common. The following have been given permission to officiate: The Revd Jean Travis; The Revd Canon Jack Brown; The Revd Canon Carol Kimberley; The Ven Dr Gordon Kuhrt; The Revd Barbara Mapley. We recall with sadness the deaths of The Revd Colin Sanders, The Revd Martin Lovering, Canon John Grimwade, The Revd Stephen Davis, The Revd Christopher Evans and The Revd Alfred Watson.

God in the life of...

Parish nurse **Chris Foster** tells **Jo Duckles** about her voluntary role helping improve the health of people at her church and beyond.

IT'S clear from hearing Chris's story that she feels she is in the right place helping people in her community through Parish Nursing. The retired community nurse told me her story in her front room, over coffee and chocolate digestives.

She became a Christian as a teenager in 1967 after friends invited her to a Billy Graham crusade. "It was the first time I'd heard the Gospel. I went forward but didn't really know why I was going. I didn't fully understand what it was all about," she says. She committed to Christ in her own room, after reading testimonies in Billy Graham magazines.

She went with her friends to their church youth group but said her family found her newfound faith difficult. "Some teenagers rebel with drugs. My rebellion was to hold out against my parents by going to church while they were asking 'why?' but those difficulties disappeared as I began to grow and learn about being a Christian," says Chris, who is now 59.

She'd always wanted to be a nurse, especially after being inspired by a neighbour who was a community nurse, and after a year on an intensive course in Sociology with a health visiting option, she switched to nursing training. She lived in Southampton as she worked her way up to become a Ward Sister. There she married Jon and had three children and continued to work in hospitals when she moved to Chesham, and had a stint in a hospice before she became a community nurse in 1996.

"I wondered why I hadn't done it before. Rather than being at the beck and call of lots of people you could focus on one patient and give them the attention they needed. As time went on I realised that what I really wanted to be



Tools of the trade: Chris with her blood pressure monitor. Pic: Jo Duckles.

able to do was to be able to give people the time they needed to talk through their issues, not just do the job I had to do and then leave."

At the time Chris was a member of St Andrews, High Wycombe, where her brother-in-law was the vicar, and it was there she first heard about Parish Nurses. However, she didn't do anything about it until the beginning of 2011, when the pastor of Kings Church, Chesham, where she now worships, approached her. She says: "A lot of it

is an extension of pastoral care, which it really is, but it's also so much more than that because it reaches out into the community in ways conventional evangelism doesn't necessarily reach out."

Chris holds a clinic at a church coffee morning as well as visiting people in their homes. She runs fitness groups and a group to help people stop smoking.

She says: "One man came to see me, telling me he hadn't seen a doctor in 20 years and was fit as a fiddle.

"I checked his blood pressure and it was really high and I told him he needed to see his GP the next week. He is now on medication to lower his blood pressure and I think I may have prevented him having a stroke.

"An elderly lady asked me to visit her, saying she wanted her blood pressure checked. The heart of the problem was that she wasn't sure whether she needed to go into a home and wanted to talk it through with someone who wasn't family."

'...it reaches out into the community in ways conventional evangelism doesn't necessarily reach out.'

Chris is also training a team of volunteers to visit lonely and isolated people in the area and to run a Communion service in an old folks' home every couple of months. She is launching a prayer shawl ministry, where Christians knit shawls, pray over them and then give them to people who have been bereaved or are distressed or isolated, to offer both spiritual and physical comfort.

As well as completing induction training with Parish Nursing Ministries UK, which has provided her with a new set of parish nursing friends who still meet up, she has studied for a counselling certificate.

As the mother of a now independent wheelchair user, she is no stranger to being a carer.

Chris is married to Jon, 59, a civil servant, and the couple have three children and two grandchildren.

ONLINE

For more on parish nursing go to www.parishnursing.org.uk.

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